

U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Alice Jia, 42, of Alexandria, Virginia, pled guilty today to conspiracy to commit immigration fraud and to making false statements. Jia was indicted with six others, Naran J. Ivanchukov, George Tsui, Rex B. Wingerter, Michelle I. Pappadakis, Bemba Balsirov, and Robert J. Mahood, in an indictment alleging conspiracy, immigration fraud, money laundering, and misprision of felony. The Honorable T.S. Ellis III, United States District Judge set sentencing for May 20, 2005.

The indictment alleges that Ivanchukov, the owner of Global Recruitment and Immigration Services, Inc., and Tsui, owner of U.S. Eagle, Inc., conspired with the others to submit to the Department of Labor and other government agencies, fraudulent immigration-related documents in an effort to obtain "green cards" for aliens. According to the indictment, the defendants filed hundreds of fraudulent applications for alien labor certification claiming that the aliens would work for employers in Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey, when in fact the jobs did not exist. The indictment alleges that Tsui charged aliens seeking to enter the United States tens of thousands of dollars to obtain fraudulent visas in this way and that he shared the money he received with Ivanchukov.

As part of her plea today, Jia admitted that she conspired with Tsui and Ivanchukov and others at Global and U.S. Eagle, Inc., to submit fraudulent immigration documents. In particular, according to court papers, Jia and Tsui created and obtained fraudulent verifications of employment (VOEs) from the People's Republic of China and elsewhere falsely to show that the aliens had certain job experience that was required to obtain approval of their immigration applications. These fraudulent VOEs were then provided to Ivanchukov and other co-conspirators at Global to be submitted in support of the applications.

The case was investigated by a team lead by special agents with the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, with the assistance of agents from the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State's Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James P. Gillis and John T. Morton.

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